PATENT
Attorney Docket No.: 50623.71

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Canceled).

2. (Previously presented) A method as in claim 29 wherein said second solvent is dissolved in said first solvent in such quantity as to form an azeotropic mixture.

3. (Canceled).

4. (Previously presented) A method as in claim 29 wherein said medical device is a stent.

5. (Previously presented) A method as in claim 29 wherein said porous hydrophobic polymer includes at least one polymer selected from the group consisting of porous polyethylene, porous polypropylene, porous polyurethanes, porous polyacrylates, porous polymethacrylates and porous fluoropolymers.

6. (Original) A method as in claim 5 wherein said porous fluoropolymer is expanded poly(tetrafluoroethylene).

7. (Previously presented) A method as in claim 29 wherein said first solvent is selected from the group consisting of tetrahydrofuran, dioxane, fluoropolymer-wetting alkanes, fluoropolymer-wetting cycloalkanes, fluoropolymer-wetting ethers, fluoropolymer-wetting chlorofluorocarbons, fluoropolymer-wetting hydrofluorocarbons and mixtures thereof.

8. (Previously presented) A method as in claim 29 wherein said hemocompatible coating substance comprises a complex of heparin with a hydrophobic counter ion.

9. (Original) A method as in claim 8 wherein said hydrophobic counter ion is a hydrophobic quaternary ammonium ion.

10. (Original) A method as in claim 8 wherein said hydrophobic counter ion is selected from the group consisting of benzylalkonium ion and tridodecylmethylammonium ion.

11. (Previously presented) A method as in claim 29 wherein said second solvent is selected from the group consisting of organic alcohols, ketones, and mixtures thereof.

12. (Canceled).

13. (Previously presented) A method as in claim 29 wherein said second solvent is dissolved in said first solvent in amount from about 0.1 volume percent to about 10 volume percent.

14. (Previously presented) A method as in claim 29 wherein said second solvent is dissolved in said first solvent in amount from about 0.1 volume percent to about 2 volume percent.

15. (Previously presented) A method as in claim 29 wherein said second solvent is dissolved in said first solvent in amount from about 0.5 volume percent to about 1 volume percent.

16. (Previously presented) A method as in claim 29 wherein said first solvent is a mixture of isomers of dichloropentafluoropropane and said second solvent is methanol dissolved in said first solvent so as to form a volume percent solution.

17. (Previously presented) A method as in claim 29 wherein said first solvent is cyclohexane and said second solvent is n-propanol dissolved in said first solvent to form a 5 volume percent solution.

18. (Previously presented) A method as in claim 29 wherein said hydrophobic polymer is coated with said hemocompatible coating substance by dip coating or spray coating.

19 (Canceled).

20. (Previously presented) A method as in claim 30 wherein said medical device is a stent.

21. (Previously presented) A method as in claim 30 wherein said porous hydrophobic polymer comprises expanded poly(tetrafluoroethylene).

22. (Previously presented) A method as in claim 30 wherein said hemocompatible coating substance is a complex of heparin with a hydrophobic counter ion.

23-28. (Canceled).

29. (Currently amended) A method of coating a blood-contacting porous hydrophobic polymer component of a medical device with a hemocompatible substance, the method comprising:

a) preparing a coating solution comprising a mixture of:

i) a first solvent that wets the porous hydrophobic polymer;

ii) a second solvent that enhances the solubility of the hemocompatible coating substance in the coating solution; and

iii) the hemocompatible coating substance; ~~followed by~~ and

b) depositing the hemocompatible coating substance onto the porous hydrophobic polymer by contacting the polymer with the coating solution,

~~provided that the hemocompatible coating is not subjected to a dialdehyde cross-linking or dialdehyde stabilization step before in vivo use~~ wherein the second solvent has a concentration of 0.00001%-10% by volume.

30. (Previously presented) A method of coating a blood-contacting porous hydrophobic polymer component of a medical device, the method comprising:

a) preparing a coating solution comprising a mixture of:

i) a first solvent that wets the porous hydrophobic polymer, wherein the first solvent comprises one of tetrahydrofuran, dioxane, fluoropolymer-wetting alkanes, fluoropolymer-wetting ethers, fluoropolymer-wetting chlorofluorocarbons, fluoropolymer-wetting hydrofluorocarbons or their mixtures;

ii) a second solvent that enhances the solubility of the hemocompatible coating substance in the coating solution; and

iii) the hemocompatible coating substance; and

b) depositing the hemocompatible coating substance the porous hydrophobic polymer by contacting the polymer with the coating solution.

31. (New) A method of coating a blood-contacting porous hydrophobic polymer component of a medical device with a hemocompatible substance, the method comprising:

a) preparing a coating solution comprising a mixture of:

i) a first solvent that wets the porous hydrophobic polymer;

ii) a second solvent that enhances the solubility of the hemocompatible coating substance in the coating solution; and

iii) the hemocompatible coating substance; followed by

b) depositing the hemocompatible coating substance onto the porous hydrophobic polymer by contacting the polymer with the coating solution,

provided that the hemocompatible coating is not subjected to a dialdehyde cross-linking or dialdehyde stabilization step and wherein the porous hydrophobic polymer component comprises porous polyethylene, porous ePTFE, porous polypropylene, porous polyurethane, porous polyacrylates, porous polymethacrylate, FEP, PFA, PVDF, PVF, PCTFE, ETFE, and TFB.

32. (New) The method of claim 29 wherein the first solvent is a hydrochlorofluorocarbon HCFC-225, dichlorodifluoroethane, or cyclohexane.

33. (New) The method of claim 32 wherein the second solvent is methanol, n-propanol, acetone, methylethylketone, or ethanol.

34. (New) The method of claim 33 wherein the hemocompatible coating substance is a heparin salt with a quaternary ammonium cation.